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Published: Thursday, Jul. 01, 2010 / Updated: Thursday, Jul. 01, 2010 10:46 PM

New trails open at Rock Hill's Riverwalk

By Matt Garfield - The Herald

VIDEO EXTRA: See video from the Riverwalk Trail [here](#).

Riverfront trails opened to the public Thursday at Rock Hill's Riverwalk development, giving hikers, bikers, rollerbladers and outdoor lovers a place to enjoy stunning views of the Catawba River.

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Jim Stratakos | jstratakos@heraldonline.com - - A visitor to Riverwalk Trail takes in the view of the Catawba River Thursday morning.

VIDEO: See the new Riverwalk Trail

"This is quite unique," she said. "There's tremendous opportunity for York County" to lure hikers by connecting its trails to Charlotte.

To get there, take Cherry Road toward Fort Mill, turn right onto Dunkin's Ferry Road shortly before the U.S. 21 Bridge. Follow the road to a 30-spot parking lot near the trail head.

Trails are open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. April through September. From October through March, the trails close at 6. There is no charge.

The paved trails will eventually connect to other parts of Riverwalk, a planned 1,000-acre community that will bring shops, homes and a business park to the former Celanese industrial site.

It's the largest development project in Rock Hill history-- highlighted by a waterfront district that can become a major tourist draw for the region, said City Manager Carey Smith.

"This is sort of like our ocean," Smith said. "It's a great natural resource that's been provided to us."

The Riverwalk stretch is part of the Carolina Thread Trail, a regional network of trails spanning 15 counties across the Piedmont. Director Ann Browning called it a "marquee" addition.

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